किए जाने वाले कार्य की दृष्टि से कम है जिसके कारण वहां काफी कार्य लंबे समय से लंबित है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस दिशा में किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस कार्यालय में इस निधि के लाभार्थियों की संख्या कितनी रही है?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पवन सिंह घटोवर): (क) सूरत स्थित उप-क्षेत्रीय भविष्य निधि कार्यालय में कर्मचारियों की कुछ कमी है, तथापि इस कमी के अस्थाई होने के कारण यह अंशदाताओं को सेवा प्रदान करने में आड़े नहीं आ रही है।

(ख) कर्मचारी चयन आयोग के साथ परामर्श करके रिक्त पदों को भरने के लिए आवश्यक कार्रवाई पहले ही शुरू कर दी गई है।

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान अंशदाताओं की संख्या निम्नानुसार थी:

वर्ष	अंशदाता
1989–90	1,26,003
1990–91	1,43,000
1991–92	1,48,070

Revision of minimum wages of Agricultural workers

4153. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times, during the last ten years, the minimum wages of agricultural workers have been revises;

(b) what is the existing minimum wages of agricultural labour;

(c) whether there is a proposal to revise the same;

(d) if so, by when these are likely to be revised;

(e) whether the Government would take care of inflation while fixing the minimum wages;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) in what manner the wages of agricultural workers are comparable with that of industrial workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The minimum wages for agricultural workers in the central sphere have been revised four times during the last ten years. The last revision was made on August 12, 1992.

(b) The existing of minimum wages for agricultural workers in the central sphere are:

Unskilled :	Rs. 26.00 to Rs. 33.00 (according to areas)
Semi-skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	Rs. 29.00 to Rs. 41.00 (according to areas)
Skilled :	Rs. 34.00 to Rs. 48.00 (according to areas)
Highly Skilled :	Rs. 41.00 to Rs. 58.00 (according to areas)
Clerical :	Rs. 34.00 to Rs. 48.00 (according to areas)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The existing minimum wages for agricultural workers have the provision of variable Dearness Allowance linked to the consumer price index numbers which shall be revised every six months.

(g) The minimum wages of agricultural workers and the wages of industrial workers are not directly comparble as both are fixed under different sets of rules.

Minimum work opportunity for agricultural labourers

4154. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by CADR has pointed out that an agricultural labourer is getting a minimum work opportunity of 270 days in a year; and

(b) if so, what are the measures taken by Government to improve the unemployment or underemployment of the agricultural labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) According to a Press report appearing in 'Hindustan Times' on 8-9-1992, a study conducted by CADR has revealed that people engaged in agriculture were not getting even the minimum work opprotunity of 270 days in a year.

(c) The Government are implementing Schemes like Integrated Rural Development (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna for promotion of employment in rural areas.

Besides the above schemes, the Planning Commission has adopted in the Eighth Five Year Plan a strategy for employment generation in rural areas. As a part of this strategy the Planning Commission has identified development of wasteland, water conservation, integrated water-shed development, development of forest areas and non-farm rural activities as important areas of employment generation. It is also making provisions for training, technology, marketing assistance and credit to non-agricultural activity with a view to promoting industries in rural areas.

Study on prevalence of ergonomic related injuries

4155. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken by Government regarding the prevalence of ergonomic related injuries like crippling injuries to the musculoskeletal system caused by the tools, equipments, workplace design, or work schedule in Indian industrial units and establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in order to protect the workers from the hazards due to ergonomic related injuries;

(d) whether Government propose to have some specific legislation for providing safeguards and security for workers considering the crippling effects of ergonomic related injuries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.